

BULLETIN

CHILD WELFARE LEAGUE OF AMERICA

130 East Twenty-second Street, New York City

NEW SERIES, VOL. IV, No. 9

NOVEMBER 15, 1925

"In searching for causes of maladjustment in school, it should be understood that it is trifles which make children happy or unhappy. These trifles are so easily overlooked that only persons with genuine insight into child-life can discover their existence and true rôle. Usually trifles are not slight or fortuitous sources of irritation, but they pierce back to some sensitive tap-root of feeling that arouses the entire personality to pain. They touch off a complex situation, often imbedded in the family drama. The child is defenseless against this attack and responds in the only way it knows by tantrums, running away, or other emotional release."—MIRIAM VAN WATERS.

INTERVIEWS

Illustrative of the difficulty of analyzing for interpretation the reactions of human beings on each other is an article by Bradley Buell in *The Family* for May, 1925, on the two-year study by a Committee on Interviewing organized by the American Association of Social Workers. Mr. Buell, the Chairman, writes very frankly of the advances and retreats made along various lines of analysis. One of the early findings of the Committee, and a fact often overlooked, is that there are two parties at least to every interview whose personality reactions and purposes determine the content of the interchange. Apparently this fact is not always clear to social workers. To emphasize that the client is not simply a lay figure out of which certain particles of "information" may be extracted the Committee writes:

"The Committee believes that it is important to recognize that an interview does involve at least two people. For the purpose of sound analysis, the psychology, personality, motives, and interest in the particular interview of one is of equal importance to the other. The interview itself, as a process, is a synthesis of the actions and reactions of each."

But immediately the Committee had realized the significance of the team play in an interview it came face to face with the fact that there were no clients in its composition, consequently "the member presenting the interview (to the Committee) has been able only to guess what was in the other's mind—obviously an unscientific procedure."

Yet the Committee was convinced of the necessity of getting analytical light on this first touch between

the client in trouble and the case worker who should come to his assistance. First impressions under these circumstances acquire an importance that they do not have when both persons are completely at ease. In these interviews, one of the parties is definitely in an abnormal situation. He may engage in the interview with very definite purpose, or a fluctuating mind, with hope, fear, concealment, evasion, resistance and other emotional cross currents. Still the matter of the purpose of the interview is so important, even though difficult to isolate ("treatment" interviews suddenly supplying information and vice versa), that the Committee submits these three statements of the purposes of A, the social worker, and B, the client:

"1. Complementary, e.g., where the purpose of A is to get information and the purpose of B to give it freely and without qualification.

"2. Supplementary, e.g., where the purpose of A is to get information and B to give it freely—but where B wishes, in addition, to accomplish some end of his own; or

"3. Contradictory, e.g., where A desires to get information—B to conceal it."

Recognizing that the purposes of A and B may change in the course of the interview, the Committee anticipates that the above will be criticized and improved.

Mr. Buell's article is too long to quote extensively and too compact to yield to piecemeal quotation. He discusses some of the interacting factors and the parts they play on the one side or the other of the interview; how an interview comes about; how and when it "heads up"; the establishment of confidence and other matters that we all recognize and have struggled with. The whole article is worth reading because it faces the difficulties in a reasoned manner.

ADOPTION LAWS

The Children's Bureau of the United States Department of Labor has just issued a study of "Adoption Laws in the United States." All children's workers will appreciate the importance of having the various laws and divergent practices analyzed and described in one publication. Wisely, the author, Emelyn Foster Peck, has not left it to the reader to work out for himself the various comparisons and contrasts but by the

use of topical headings has brought such comparable material together.

"Adoption is a means of creating the legal relation of parent and child between a child deprived of the care and protection of his own parents and the person wishing to take the child into his own home. It involves the severance of relationships existing between blood kindred and the voluntary assumption of parental obligation through a legal process."

"This study is concerned primarily with the personal relationships involved in adoption. Its purpose is to bring together the main features of the various State adoption acts, as well as of certain other statutory provisions which also affect the common-law rights and duties of parents in respect to their children, and to note the trend of this legislation in the light of modern developments in child care and protection."

As one of the trends the author notes, "A tendency toward the use, not of minutely drawn statutory provisions, but of a broad grant of power to an administrative board equipped with workers trained in the investigation of problems of neglected and destitute children. Judicial action is guided by the recommendation of such State boards. The advisability of severance of the relations between the child and its parents and the suitability of the proposed foster home both receive consideration. Attention is also directed toward the preservation of family ties whenever this would promote the child's welfare, and laws dealing with desertion and non-support have emphasized the duty of parents to care for their own children whenever possible."

Recent laws also tend to lay more responsibility on the courts and to restrict the right of transfer of parental rights and duties to courts alone. In some places attempt by a parent to transfer permanent care and custody of a child without notifying the public department is punishable, elsewhere assumption of permanent care without court order is limited to relatives and parents.

In general authority is lodged in courts of superior jurisdiction, most frequently those exercising authority over the area of a county. But in states where commissions are working on new laws there has been much discussion of the advisability of locating this authority in the juvenile or domestic-relations courts which habitually deal with children, are equipped with or in touch with facilities for social investigation and in general may be said to be "socialized," as is done in New York State (in part) and Missouri. One reason why this is an important question arises from the fact that "in many States the courts dealing with adoption have no connection with juvenile courts, and their judges, as such, have no experience in sitting as judges of juvenile sessions. In such courts, unless special provision is made for investigation, adoption is likely

to be regarded simply as one of many matters of probate, not as a matter in which protection of the child through a study of the case is an obligation resting upon the court."

We refrain from further discussion with the hope that our members will secure the pamphlet. In addition to the discussion under topics, laws are reprinted from Minnesota, North Dakota, Virginia, Massachusetts, Oregon and other States whose statutes embody recent and desirable features.

A different study is that made in England by a Child Adoption Committee appointed by the Home Secretary. Under English law as it stands today it is impossible for a parent to divest himself voluntarily of his rights in and responsibilities toward his child. At the same time economic pressure and other reasons cause many parents to wish to dispose of their children. The Committee expresses doubt that more adequate adoption laws will reach this social problem but recognizes that persons who in good faith take children to raise and children who are subjects of such transactions ought to be safeguarded more fully than they are at present. As part of such measures, the Committee emphasizes that judicial sanction should be obtained and yet be something more than a mere ratifying of agreements entered into by private parties; "to avoid this result," the Report states, "we think that in every case there should be appointed in the manner to be prescribed by the Act or rules to be made thereunder some body or person to act as guardian ad litem of the child with the duty of protecting the interests of the child before the tribunal."

On many other points such as the court which should have jurisdiction, ages of adopting parents and of adopted minors, probationary period, revocability of adoptions, secrecy of records, tentative conclusions are reached very similar to provisions in some of our better statutes.

SCHOOL TIME FOR MOTHER

"We have done much sentimental thinking and talking about the home," says Dr. Jessie Taft in *Child Study*, the monthly magazine of the Child Study Association of America. "But we haven't taken it half seriously enough."

"Much has been done through courts, clinics and schools to help difficult children and unhappy, nervous grown ups. But the search for causes of all these troubles always leads back to the home, where the child spent his first years, to the mother and father from whom he learned his first lessons."

"We shall never get anywhere," says Dr. Taft, "until people recognize bringing up children as the most fascinating occupation in the world for an intelligent

person, until they recognize it is an occupation which demands skill, insight and scientific training second to none.

"Old-fashioned mothers may laugh, but many colleges are now giving courses for parents and young people who expect to be parents. Progressive social agencies are doing the same for their foster-mothers.

"These courses teach the parents what kind of food a child should have and how to prepare it; how to prevent illness; how to surround a child with affection and yet not spoil him; how to teach the child to respect private property without overvaluing it; and many more such things."—Home Bureau, Hebrew Sheltering Guardian Society "Homefinder."

HEALTH FACTS

From the City Health number of the November Survey Graphic we cull the following:

"Look, you city dwellers, upon your present security and be thankful for it. Ask the reasons; see who bore and bears the burden and why; and learn what you may further expect in relief from the hazards to life, its quality and quantity, its depth and breadth, as well as its length.

"Your grandparents, if they were city dwellers, lost one child in four before it was a year old, while you and your friends maintain the silver ratio of sixteen living to one lost. Let us get on a gold basis of not less than twenty-five babies living for every one we lose before our children learn to mock us for our backwardness. My guess is that a city will reach the goal before a farmers' region; a city of 100,000 or thereabouts before a metropolis; a city west of the Rockies before our industrial maelstroms of races and traditions on the east coast."

"Clean water gave us back some of our threatened babies; more light and air in the homes may have helped a bit too, but the great saviors of infancy were and always will be the nursing mothers and Louis Pasteur, the patron saint of city milk. How little the sanitarian asks of you for the safety check he puts on the most indispensable of foods! The price of one glass of milk a year is all it costs the city dweller to have his officer of health guard him against milk-borne tuberculosis, typhoid, scarlet fever, diphtheria, epidemic sore throats, and a multitude of minor disorders, including most of the summer diarrhea of babies. Think of it, five cents a year from each of us suffices to provide a public service which has its thousands of lives to its credit each year. It costs us ten cents apiece a year for other types of control of communicable diseases which as a group have been reduced by 75 percent in the past fifty years.

"Those same grandparents of ours fifty years ago saw four hundred of their friends and neighbors carried off by tuberculosis where less than a hundred are lost today. Clinics for diagnosis, laboratories to aid and check the physician and prove the infection, separate wards or hospitals and sanatoria, quick and early efforts to arrest the beginning sickness and save the children from exposure, good food in the stomach and clean air in the lungs, and best of all a point of view well

and widely taught that tuberculosis is communicable, preventable and curable, have worked the miracle. Not 50 percent of the tenement children in our poorest city wards are today even infected with tuberculosis while but one generation ago scarcely a child of sixteen could be found who had not been at least attacked by the tubercle bacillus."—HAVEN EMERSON, M.D.

"Abolishing Diphtheria. The value of the Schick test to determine whether or not a child is susceptible to diphtheria, and of the series of toxin and anti-toxin injections which will make him immune, has been demonstrated many times over in small groups of children. But several cities in central New York state determined to show that it worked on a large scale. In Auburn, for example, the disease had cost the lives of ten children each year for eight years before concerted action was started in 1922. Practically 85 percent of the school children and almost as many of the children under school age have been immunized; and since 1923 there has been only one death from diphtheria (that of a two-year-old, who had not been immunized) and there have been fewer cases among children than among adults, an unheard-of situation in sanitary history. The village of Homer, which immunized its children in 1922, has not been troubled with diphtheria since. It is on the basis of such evidence as this, watched with eagerness from both sides of the Atlantic and the ease and convenience with which this record was made, as far as the children were concerned, that the campaign to wipe out diphtheria altogether in New York state by 1930 has been built."

"Mitigating Measles. For more than thirty years it had been realized, and increasingly, that the blood taken from persons convalescent with measles contained antibodies which would protect other persons, inoculated with it, from the disease. The New York City Department of Health tried it successfully with children in the contagious hospitals who were exposed to cases which developed in the wards. Then it occurred to Dr. Louis I. Harris, director of the Bureau of Preventable Diseases, that this serum should be available for children in institutions, in which epidemics of measles run a peculiarly deadly course, and for all children under three who are in danger of a complicating pneumonia. The difficulty was to find healthy adults, convalescent from measles, who could and would spare blood; measles is so highly contagious that most people have it in early childhood when they cannot afford such a loss of energy.

"But with the opportune occurrence of a measles epidemic at Berea College the initial supply was obtained. An agent of the Department went out to take blood, by peaceful and practically painless methods. Bought at ten dollars a pint, it costs about thirty-five cents in sufficient quantity to ward off an attack of measles in a baby who has been exposed to it. In one institution alone, in 1923; on the basis of previous measles epidemics in the same building, this convalescent serum probably saved the lives of twenty babies. For such children and for very young patients of private physicians who are poor risks, the Department supplies the serum free."—MARY ROSS.

"In 1921 the city of Salem, Ohio, suffered an epidemic of typhoid fever which in round numbers cost the community half a million dollars. The epidemic

President—HENRY W. THURSTON, New York
Secretary—C. V. WILLIAMS, Chicago
Treasurer—ALFRED F. WHITMAN, 24 Mt. Vernon St., Boston, Mass.
Executive Director—C. C. CARSTENS, New York

resulted from an attempt of the city fathers to save \$1,500 by substituting a tile pipe for an iron one in the construction of their sewer system.

"For the past fifteen years a business organization, the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, with which I am associated, has spent an average of more than a million dollars a year in its public health campaign for industrial policy holders. This vast investment has reaped a return of 200 percent; the money saving resulting from a lowered deathrate which the Company attributes to that campaign totals almost twice its cost.

"We can make only a very rough approximation of economic losses resulting from sickness and premature death. I shall take pains to make the estimates under rather than over-statements of the case. A few years ago, Dr. Frankel and I conducted a number of sickness surveys among some half million industrial policy holders of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, and found that, on the average, they lost about seven days each year from sickness involving inability to work. There were additional days of discomfort which interfered more or less with people's duties, but these were not included. That 2 percent of the population is sick at any moment of time was the outstanding conclusion of our studies. Converted into economic terms, this means that there is a loss of 2 percent of total current production, which in round numbers would amount to more than a billion dollars annually in the United States. To this huge figure should be added the cost of such items as medical care, hospital service, drugs and appliances, and the like. Investigating the cost of sickness in a limited group of people, we have found that the average annual expenditure was nineteen dollars per capita for medical and nursing care, for drugs and other items necessary during illness. This figure is probably higher than the average in the general population because of the favorable economic status of the group studied. But, if even a half of the figure were used, say in round numbers ten dollars per capita, the total cost of medical care in the United States will amount to more than a billion dollars a year.

"The community's loss by premature death is another problematical value, because we do not as yet know the money value of a human life at various ages. I have been in the habit of using the figure of one hundred dollars per year per capita as a rough measure of the economic loss resulting from death. That is the amount by which our national wealth has been apparently increasing per capita in recent years. It should be a fairly good, rough approximation of the economic value of a year of life in the general run of the population. On this basis a year lost would mean one hundred dollars lost to the wealth of the nation. A year of potential life lost by each person in a nation of one hundred and thirteen million means a loss of eleven billions of dollars to the present generation; conversely, the gain of a year in the average length of life would mean ultimately a gain of that much wealth during the life span of the present generation, or an economic gain of about two hundred millions of dollars per annum.

These sets of figures, which are broadly correct, suggest the immense values at stake in the effort to save and prolong human life."—LOUIS I. DUBLIN.

There are articles on Health Work in "The Small City" and in "The Large City" as well as discussion of the respective functions of public and private organizations.

"What You Can Do," who are not professionals in health work, comes to the question of volunteer service. Dr. George Truman Palmer discusses the part that health committees in clubs, business organizations, churches, fraternal bodies, parent-teacher associations and others can play in the dissemination of health information and the stimulation of cooperation on the part of the general public. Most interesting is the method of evaluating the health provisions of the medium sized city under twenty-five topical headings. The information is of the sort an agency ought to have before investing money in finding and investigating free foster homes or the development of groups of boarding-homes.

Rural health is only indirectly referred to in this number which leads to the hope of separate treatment later.

OUTSIDE INQUIRIES ON NEGRO CASES

We know of an agency in a large Northern city that could employ almost the full time of one worker on inquiries from a certain Southern agency about negroes who have migrated to the city. If all Southern agencies were as active in following clients and relatives of clients who come North, work on cases arising in the city would be seriously hampered by the time required for these "outside inquiries." Negro families ramify.

Another side of the picture is presented by Miss Helen B. Pendleton of the Atlanta School of Social Work writing in *Social Forces* for September. Miss Pendleton sees the social workers of the North (often young) busily dictating faultless letters of rather technical character phrased to convey an exact impression to a caseworker of similar grade but deplorably apt to cause the Southern county judge or "President of Social Service," whom they finally reach for answering, such confusion of mind that an answer is never written. She protests that "half of these letters are so much wasted paper, postage, time and thought," and counsels the city agency to remember that rural counties and isolated villages are hard to reach at all and if reached the agent is generally an untrained white volunteer who may or may not appreciate the problem posed and be able to get the facts. Not seldom facts on the "outside inquiry" are secured through the white lady's negro servant using her acquaintance and knowledge of local gossip as her sources of information.

After reading one hundred such requests for information and the replies made by Southern correspondents, Miss Pendleton finds that "simple categorical questions like the verification of court records, or whether relatives would or would not help were usually answered." The person addressed should be given enough information to let him understand just what the puzzling elements are in the case and what light information from him will throw on the whole matter. A series of questions, separate and seemingly unrelated to each other or to a central problem, are fairly certain not to be answered. Unkindliness or hostility were not found in more than four letters of reply. There was however often a lack of perception because, in the experience of the person answering; such family problems are normal to negro life. In the face of such handicaps Miss Pendleton's advice is worth pondering before correspondence is begun.

VISITORS FROM OTHER LANDS

In recent weeks the League office has been visited by representatives of the Mexican Department of Education, by the head of a large orphanage work in Cuba, by an American physician, resident in China, who wanted information for the use of the mothers of children in the foreign colony, by a Japanese clergyman who is the head of Buddhist social service and is traveling abroad to study methods of child-care in America and Europe. During approximately the same period inquiries from Russia, China, and Czecho-Slovakia were answered.

It is startling to realize how unlike are the economic and social traditions which bound the lives of families in some of these countries to the relatively highly protected life in our country. The impossibility of transferring our methods and standards without modification strikes one at once. Yet at the same time the briefest introductory conversation makes it clear that the distinctly human ends of their problems are much the same: mental deficiency, health conditions, methods of feeding, need of character and vocational training for the children.

But most of all there stands out the imperative necessity of getting back of these finished products of social maladjustment dealt with by social work as we know it. Not that we have gone very far in reaching back to the deep, underlying causes or are even reasonably free to do so in the great pressure of remedial work. Nevertheless, one cannot but realize that those communities where good grade social work is carried on are not only achieving more of a remedial nature but are also the ones most concerned about causative factors. Grappling with the mass of day by day cases seems to be for most of our organizations an antecedent condition to attempts to find the causes.

Visits and correspondence such as the above mentioned are not only significant opportunities for service, they definitely tie together common human interests over the width of the world.

A READING SUGGESTION

A Manual for Cottage Mothers and Supervisors has been published by the Hebrew Sheltering Guardian Society of Pleasantville, New York. It is available from the publishers to those interested upon payment of ten cents for postage.

The Manual is reviewed at some length in the November issue of "Information Exchange," the Child Welfare League of America's periodical which especially serves children's institutions.

HEALTH INSURANCE

"There are several kinds of health insurance. One of them is a good vaccination scar. Another is a negative Schick test, which means immunity to diphtheria. A couple of dollars will pay for the immunizing of a child to diphtheria, but it takes \$100 or more to see him safely through an attack of that disease and even then there is never a guarantee of recovery."—ILLINOIS STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH.

BROKEN ARMS NOT FATAL

When Johnny comes home pale and dust-covered and announces, "My arm is broke," don't see the accident as any worse than it actually is. If you have or can get a motor car don't proceed to dash at fire-engine speed to the nearest doctor. Also avoid hot applications or cold applications no matter how urgent the neighbor's advice may be.

"Common sense should tell every one that in the event of a broken bone, there is no need at all for hurry, indeed, there is good reason for deliberation. Hurry is bound to jar and hurt the patient, in fact the rough handling that comes from hurry may so displace the broken fragments that a sharp point of the broken bone may be pushed out through the skin. In that case, a simple fracture has been converted into a compound fracture. This is a much more serious affair.

"Nothing can possibly be gained by hurry. A few hours, even a few days more or less do not make much difference in the readiness with which a fracture can be reduced or set. Fibrous tissue and new bone are laid down very slowly about a break and it is largely these that make late reduction difficult. Hippocrates, the great Greek physician, forbade deferring reduction longer than the third or fourth day. This is still a good general rule, but it has exceptions.

"In Johnny's case it is best to use no local applications at all, either hot or cold. It is usually best not to remove the clothing. The arm should be placed on a pillow, an ordinary sofa pillow or small bed pillow does

very well. The edges of the pillow should be gently lifted around the arm and held in place by several straps or pieces of cord tied about it to form a sort of bundle. The patient should be made to lie down. Hot coffee may be given if he is faint. The doctor should then be notified.

"When a leg is broken there is need for a cool head. On no account should the patient be helped to his feet or permitted to try to stand. Unless a stretcher is available, it is best not to attempt to move him until the broken leg has been temporarily protected. A pillow splint is sufficient when the break is below the knee. Corrugated packing paper wrapped around the leg and tied in place by pieces of cord or handkerchiefs is often useful. When the fracture is in the shaft of the bone above the knee, the old-fashioned umbrella or walking stick splint is worth knowing about. In this case, one umbrella is laid along the outer side and one along the inner side of the leg and both are firmly strapped to the limb. As soon as the patient is in bed and the 'bitterness of the pain' reduced, the straps should be loosened. Tight bandages should always be avoided in fractures. The circulation of the limb must have no interference.

"The dangers of fracture, such as nonunion, disabling or unsightly deformity and paralysis from nerve injury, are problems primarily for the surgeon. We need possess no expert knowledge of them. We should, however, know that a compound fracture means broken skin and a portal of entry for bacteria to an injured site where germs multiply rapidly. We should understand that a simple fracture can be made compound by carelessness. We should learn that while a few hours are of consequence when one has pain in the stomach from early acute appendicitis, and when one has a sore throat and beginning diphtheria, they are not of great moment in a fracture of an arm."—*"Hygeia,"* November, 1925.

CHILD WELFARE NEWS

There are still about 10,000 Massachusetts children in institutions during a given year, according to information presented to the Massachusetts State Conference of Social Work at its annual meeting in November of 1924. Following the presentation of this paper and its discussion, it was decided to appoint a Committee to study further into the whole subject of correlation of agencies throughout the State.

Mr. Richard K. Conant, Commissioner of the Department of Public Welfare, was made Chairman of a Committee representative of different sections of the State and different child caring interests. Much interest has been created in several of the large centers and at the annual meeting in Swampscott in October, 1925, it was reported that there had been several meetings of the various groups which it is hoped will eventually include all of the child-caring agencies of the Commonwealth, including institutions as well as placing-out agencies.

The objective of the study is to find the gaps in the children's program and to rearrange the functions in such a way that the need of every child will be met.

The Institute of Child Welfare, recently established at the University of Minnesota through a 5-year grant of \$250,000 from the Laura Spelman Rockefeller Memorial, has been placed under the direction of Dr. John E. Anderson, formerly of Yale University. The purpose of the institute is "to secure through the cooperation of a number of scientific departments of the university as much fundamental knowledge as possible about the small child, and to make the knowledge thus secured, together with that secured through earlier studies, available to the people of the State through the extension service of the University."

The first project of the institute will be the establishment of a nursery school for normal children. Two classes will be formed, one for children between 3½ and 4 years old and one for children between 2 and 3½. Experimental educational programs will be undertaken with a view to determining better methods of instructing and managing small children.

As a second project the institute hopes to make arrangements for the careful observation and study under home and hospital conditions of a group of infants from birth up to the age of 2 years, in order to obtain information about the physical and mental development of infants.

The Guardianship of Infants Bill, which has been before Parliament in one form or another for several sessions, was made law just before the summer recess. The act lays down the principle of equal rights and responsibilities for fathers and mothers, and provides that in any case coming before the court the child's welfare alone shall be considered. This act gives a mother equal rights with the father in appointing guardians after the death of either parent, gives the court power to make an order against the father for maintenance when the mother is given custody of a child, and allows cases under the act to be brought before police courts.

Between 1919 and 1924 the infant mortality rate of Moscow, which was very high during the years of the war, was reduced from 492 per 1,000 live births to 170. This decrease is attributed to the work of the infant-welfare centers, of which there were 8 in Moscow at the beginning of 1919, as compared with 29 at the end of 1924. In 1924 there were brought to the centers more than 347,00 babies, or 80 percent of all the babies born in Moscow within the year.

As a result of a recent widespread epidemic of measles the Children's Home, founded in Guatemala City by the Guatemalan Red Cross for homeless children, undertook active health propaganda by means of lectures, cinema films, distribution of printed matter, and

personal visits, the object being to instruct parents as to the diseases to which their children are exposed and the means of safeguarding them. Though serious difficulties have to be overcome in this new work, nevertheless the Director of the Children's Home hopes to go far toward diminishing the danger of contagious diseases among the child population of the future.

A new low world-record infant mortality rate for New Zealand for 40 per 1,000 live births is announced by the Royal New Zealand Society for the Health of Women and Children (Dunedin, New Zealand) in its annual report for 1924. The council is much encouraged by the fact that there has been, at last, a substantial decrease in the death rate of infants under 1 month; the rate for 1924 was just under 24 per 1,000 live births, as compared with an average rate for the past 5 years of 29. This gain is attributed by the report to the fact that nurses of the Royal Society are now given the names and addresses of mothers within a few days of child-birth so that they are able to send a letter immediately offering help—an offer which is frequently accepted. Dr. Truby King, founder of the Royal Society, is quoted by the report as placing the irreducible infant mortality rate at 30.

A knighthood was recently conferred upon Dr. King in recognition of his valuable services to humanity in his work for infant care.

Illustrative of child-life conditions under a different social culture are the first issues of the new "Bulletin on the Peruvian Child," published by the recently established Children's Bureau of Peru. The President of the Republic recently issued a decree ordering the establishment of day nurseries on all estates employing at least 25 women farm workers. The Children's Bureau started an investigation of infant mortality throughout the country during the period 1920-1924; it has also made a study of the sleeping accommodations of children in Lima. A school for the training of child-hygiene workers, with a four months' course, was established in August. Upon graduation the students will enter the employ of the Peruvian Children's Bureau.

The municipal authorities of Rome have decided to establish a vocational-guidance office with the following functions: To provide information to the children of the four higher school grades on trades and occupations, by means of pamphlets, lectures, moving pictures, and visits to factories and work places; to familiarize the children and their parents with the requirements of the various occupations; and to ascertain the physical and mental fitness of the child. Detailed records, including both mental and physical data, will be kept for each child in the four grades.

HAVE you read all of the League's publications? We can supply the following in such numbers as are desired:

BULLETIN No. 6.—The Need for Psychological Interpretation in the Placement of Dependent Children, by Jessie Taft, Ph.D.
Price, Fifteen Cents

BULLETIN No. 7.—What Dependent Children Need. Edited by C. V. Williams.
Price, Twenty-five Cents

BULLETIN No. 11.—The Problem of the Unmarried Mother and Her Child, by Ruth I. Workum.
Price, Fifteen Cents

CASE STUDIES—

No. 1, Edited by Miss Georgia G. Ralph. The service given by a child-placing agency to a family with three small children where the mother was in need of sanatorium care. In Three Parts.

Price, Thirty Cents (complete)

Twenty-five or more copies, Twenty-five Cents Each

No. 2, A Study of the Experience of a Nursery School in Training a Child Adopted from an Institution, by Helen T. Woolley, Ph.D.

Price, Twenty-five Cents

Ten or more copies, Fifteen Cents Each

ENCLOSURES

(Sent to members of League only)

The enclosures for this month are as follows:

1. A reprint from The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science, entitled "Child Welfare Programs of Churches and Fraternal Orders," by C. W. Areson and H. W. Hopkirk.
2. The "Information Exchange" for November, 1925.

CHANGES FOR DIRECTORY

ALABAMA.—Children's Aid Society of Jefferson County, Birmingham. New address—801 Bankers Bond Building.

CONNECTICUT.—Children's Aid Society, Hartford. New address—50 Trumbull Street.

PENNSYLVANIA.—Associated Aid Societies, Harrisburg. Wendell F. Johnson, General Secretary, resigned. Succeeded by Miss M. Alice Hill.

Resignations From Membership

OREGON.—State Child Welfare Commission, Portland.

WYOMING.—Wyoming Children's Home Society, Cheyenne.

INTER-CITY CONFERENCE ON ILLEGITIMACY BULLETIN

President: MRS. RUTH I. WORKUM, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Vice-President: C. V. WILLIAMS, Chicago, Illinois.

Secretary and Treasurer: MISS ELIZABETH YERKA, Madison, Wis.

THE CHILDREN'S BUREAU OF PHILADELPHIA

J. Prentice Murphy, Executive Secretary of the Children's Bureau of Philadelphia, writes:

"For about two years we have not stressed our work with unmarried mothers. This was necessitated partly by a change in program due to lack of funds, and second, the re-organization and improvement in work at one of the maternity homes in Philadelphia. Notwithstanding this, a fair amount of work has been done for unmarried mothers, especially through the care of their children.

"Perhaps the most outstanding observation that occurs to me is the realization that as social workers have improved their methods of approach to the unmarried mother, meeting each one in the way best suited to lead to a good understanding of the working out of a fair, satisfactory plan, the contacts have been increasingly with the higher types of mothers. I mean by this, that the woman of intelligence, of good social position, who found herself pregnant, or with a baby, and not married to the father, simply would not submit to the stereotyped and harsh approach which was the rule on the part of but a few organizations ten or fifteen years ago. Now in a great many places there is expressed through this one field of child welfare some of its very best social case work. This would also seem to indicate that our services will also be utilized by families of education and higher incomes who present other problems than those of illegitimacy; for the spirit and finesse with which a given service is performed is one of the great determinants in making people desire our services."

THE CHILDREN'S BUREAU OF NORTH DAKOTA

Miss Henrietta Lund, Children's Bureau of North Dakota, has received the following letters which are of interest to all working with the problem of illegitimacy. The unmarried fathers do not often write. The following letters come from the desk of the North Dakota Children's Bureau and represent the viewpoint of a few of them:

"You said if we was to tell truth you could help us better, so my sister she tell you I am the one. Next day the sheriff come and take me quick like that while I was working in the field. We got big family of kids at home and that new baby to and my father he sick all time. The Judge he said five years. I be twenty-five then. What for you tell Sheriff?"

" . . . Now that we are happily established, I want to tell you that the inspirational atmosphere you have thrown around us and the understanding you gave to that dark event in our lives has given us a new outlook. One week ago in jail—job gone—no money, no prospects. Today reinstated with the corporation, Mary in our new home singing at her work, the baby

registered, as you suggested, in a nearby child welfare clinic. . . . I would like an opportunity to pass the service on to someone else."

"I inadvertently heard the appeal of your representative to a young man to play fair,—that a few years of self-sacrifice in acknowledging and supporting his child were incomparable to a life-time with a bad conscience. I have been in this situation, but there was no one in those days whose business it was in a disinterested and unprejudiced way to help one to the right. Always through the years that have passed (and they are years that have brought financial gain to me), I have been troubled about that matter. I have wanted to know how the child fared. I tried once after my family were grown to find out, but it was too late. I am writing you now to ask that you do not let that young man make the same mistake."

"I guess maybe I am not supposed to have any feelings in this matter, for nobody has asked me for anything except money. But I would like to ask the Court for the right to board the baby in some good home, instead of adopting it out, as she wants to. Maybe after awhile I can persuade my parents to take him. I don't think we ought to give that little baby away to strangers. Isn't he entitled to his father, if his mother doesn't want him?"

CINCINNATI CHILDREN'S BUREAU

A program recently adopted in Cincinnati was recommended by the Council of Mental Hygiene, and was accepted by the Children's Bureau, of which the Cincinnati Committee on Illegitimacy occupies one of the six sections composing the Bureau.

"An institution should not place out for adoption a child who is feeble-minded or who has serious behavior disorders. A child mentally retarded should be placed out only upon the recommendation of a psychiatrist and after the prospective foster parent has been fully acquainted with the child's mental condition; and, further, adoption should not be allowed if such child has developed a serious behavior problem indicating an inability to adjust socially.

"In the case of children under three years of age, because of the difficulty of making a reliable mental study of children of these ages, decision as to whether or not the child should be permanently adopted out should be determined by facts in the heredity as disclosed by the social history."

Definite standards on adoption should interest illegitimacy conferences in order that the public may gain an increasing confidence in placing-out work and in a measure insure adoptive parents from receiving "damaged goods." Such standards are, moreover, essential in securing the welfare of the child to be placed, and in providing him with a successful adjustment in the adoptive home.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

(Inter-City Conference on Illegitimacy)

Individual dues, \$1.00; Group dues, \$5.00, payable to the Treasurer, Juvenile Department, Board of Control, Madison, Wisconsin.